

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follow:

Please add new claims 44-51.

1. (Currently Amended) A banjo having a pick-up system comprising:

 a banjo having a banjo head, and

 a pick-up system, the pick up system comprising a plurality of pick-up heads extending therefrom;

 a plurality of holes formed in the banjo head; and

 wherein the pick-up system is mounted such that each of the plurality of pick-up heads ~~extend~~ ~~extends~~ through one of the plurality of holes such that the pick-up heads do ~~does~~ not touch the banjo head.

2. (Previously Presented) The banjo according to claim 1, wherein each pick-up head comprises a button disposed on the top thereof, and wherein the button is of larger diameter than the hole in the banjo head through which the pick-up head extends so as to cover the holes in the banjo head.

3. (Previously Presented) The banjo according to claim 2, wherein the pick-up is mounted so as not to touch the banjo head.

4. (Previously Presented) The banjo according to claim 2, further comprising a reinforcement layer disposed about the plurality of holes.

5. (Original) The banjo according to claim 1, wherein the banjo comprises stabilizer bars, and wherein the pick-up system is mounted on the stabilizer bars.

6. (Original) The banjo according to claim 1, wherein the banjo head is mounted on a body, and further comprising a lead wire extending from the pick-up system to the exterior of the banjo body.

7. (Previously Presented) The banjo according to claim 1, wherein the pick-up system comprises adjustable pick-up heads.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a banjo with a pick-up system, the method comprising:

selecting a banjo having a banjo head mounted on a body;

forming at least one hole in the banjo head; and

disposing a pick-up system in the banjo body so as to not touch the banjo head;

wherein the pick-up system has five metallic pick-up heads, and wherein the method comprises forming five holes in the banjo head; and

wherein the method further comprises positioning the metallic pick-up heads of the pick-up system such that each of the metallic pick-up heads extends through one of the holes in the banjo head.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the method comprises disposing a pick-up system with at least one pick-up head so that the at least one pick-up head of the pick-up system extends into the at least one hole in the banjo head.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the method comprises reinforcing the banjo head about the at least one hole.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the banjo body has at least one stabilizer bar and wherein the method further comprises mounting the pick-up system on the at least one stabilizer bar.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8 11, wherein the method further comprises placing a button on top of each pick-up head, the button having a greater diameter than the holes through which the pick-up heads extend so as to cover the holes.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the method comprises using a humbucking electromagnetic pick-up.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the humbucking electromagnetic pick-up comprises a unidirectional single coil electromagnetic pick-up.

17.-20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) The banjo of claim 1, further comprising a preamplifier.

22. (Previously Presented) The banjo of claim 1, further comprising a second pick-up system.

23. (Previously Presented) A banjo pick-up system comprising:

 a banjo having a banjo head, the banjo head having a plurality of holes formed therein for receiving the individual heads of a pick-up;

 a pick-up comprising a plurality of pick-up heads;

 a mounting plate configured to attach to the tension bar of a banjo; and

 an adjustment mechanism configured to allow adjustment of the position of the pick-up relative to the banjo head so as to extend the pick-up heads through the plurality of holes formed in the banjo head without the pick-up touching the banjo head; and

 a plurality of buttons, one button mounted on the top of each pick-up heads, the buttons being of sufficient diameter to cover the holes formed in the banjo head.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the pick-up comprises a humbucker type pick-up.

25. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the adjustment mechanism comprises at least one bolt and at least one nut and wherein rotation of the at least one nut or the at least one bolt moves the pick-up relative to the mounting plate.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25, further comprising at least one spring to inhibit movement of the pick-up relative to the mounting plate.

27. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the mounting plate further comprises a clamping plate and wherein the tension bar is positioned between the mounting plate and the clamping plate.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27, further comprising at least one bolt to bias the clamping plate towards the mounting plate.

29. (Original) The system of claim 27, further comprising at least one resilient pad attached to the mounting plate or the clamping plate.

30. (Original) The system of claim 23, further comprising a preamplifier configured to adjust at least one of the group consisting of the volume, the tone, and the balance of the pick-up.

31. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the pick-up is mounted inside of the banjo.

32. (Original) The system of claim 23, further comprising a second pick-up.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the preamplifier allows for independent adjustment of at least one of the group consisting of the volume, balance, and tone of the pick-ups.

34.-43. (Canceled)

44. (New) The banjo pick-up system of claim 23, further comprising a banjo preamplifier comprising:

a signal amplification circuit;

a volume control; and

a box for holding at least one of the signal amplification circuit and the volume control, the box being curved to fit the curve of the banjo body.

45. (New) The banjo pick-up system of claim 44, wherein the preamplifier is mounted to the banjo.

46. (New) The banjo pick-up system of claim 44, further comprising tone control.

47. (New) The banjo pick-up system of claim 44, wherein the preamplifier is configured to accept the signal from multiple pick-ups.

48. (New) The banjo pick-up system of claim 47, wherein the preamplifier allows adjustment of the signal strength of the individual pick-ups, relative to the other pick-ups.

49. (New) The banjo pick-up system of claim 47, wherein the preamplifier allows adjustment of the tone of the individual pick-ups, relative to the other pick-ups.

50. (New) The banjo pick-up system of claim 44, wherein the preamplifier further comprises clips configured to attach to the banjo.

51. (New) The banjo pick-up system of claim 44, wherein the preamplifier further comprises a resilient member to attach the preamplifier to the banjo.